

Saga™

BRIAN K. VAUGHAN FIONA STAPLES



CHAPTER
TWO



HotComic.net

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Saga

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Yeah, they warned me this was a bake-off. I can handle the competition.

Who else they commence? The Import? The Fluke?

I'm sorry, Will... they specifically requested *The Stalk*.



Oh.



Already left a few days ago. Just thought you should know. Obviously, there's nothing to prevent you both working the case...

...other than the fact I never want to see that asshole's face again?

Forget it, I'm changing course for *Sextillion*.




Might as well max this thing out on whores before somebody remembers to cancel it.

Come on, I know it's a crowded field, but a guy like you could *retire* on this kinda payday. What if your targets give everybody else the slip?

We both know the score. If *The Stalk* is on their trail...



...those kids are already dead.



Actually, against
all odds, I'd been alive
three whole days.

This is
what I get
for marrying a
vegetarian!

Even
the goddamn
plants want
us dead!

My family's quest
for Cleave's mythical
Rocketship Forest had
sent us doubling back
into its all-too-real
Endless Woods.



Alana!
Are you
all right?
Is Hazel
okay?!

Dad had been awake
for sixty-five of the
seventy-two hours
since I was born.



Mom hadn't closed
her eyes once.

She's fucking
snoring! Meanwhile,
I've got quick vines
trying to get
inside me!

Use
your sword
already!



I can't
reach it!
Also, sacred
vow!

Just
tell me a
secret!

What?
Why?



Because
spells require
ingredients, and
this one needs
a secret!

Something
you've never
shared with
anyone!

I'm...
not as tall
as I tell
people?



Do you
seriously need
me to define
what a secret
is?!





If there's an opposite of a honeymoon,
it's the week after a couple's
first child is born.



I love our
girl. Don't you
love the way
she smells?

mm

Don't
you...
just...?

No matter how hard they try,
no matter how pure their
intentions...



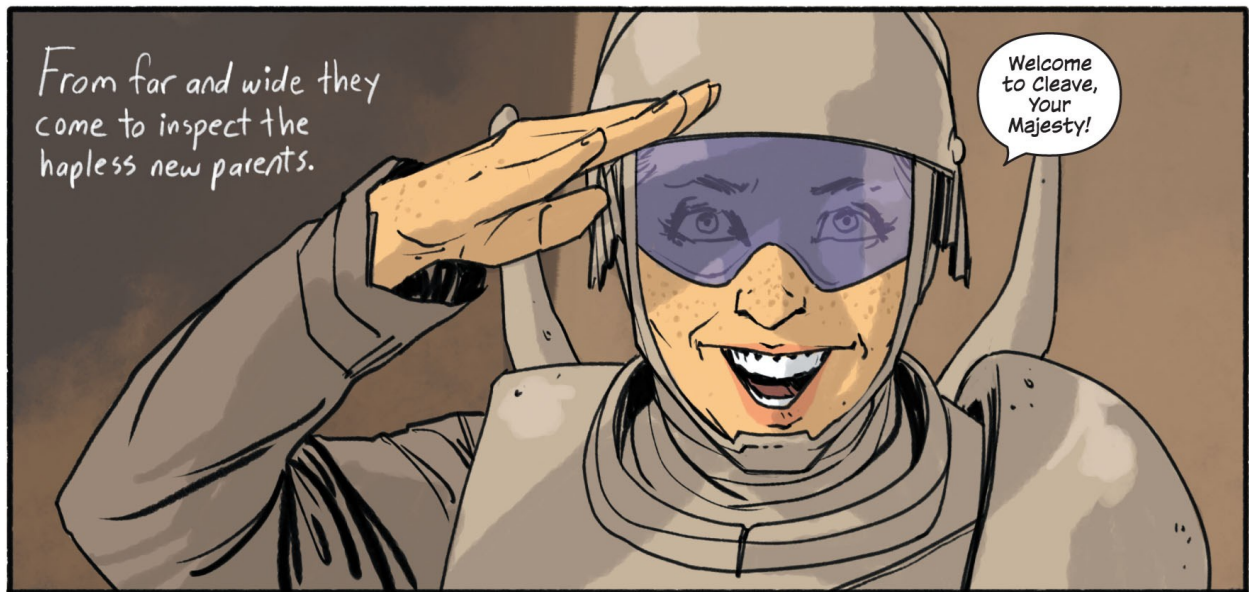
... everything will
go wrong.



hmmk

And that's when
the gawkers
show up.





From far and wide they
come to inspect the
hapless new parents.

Welcome
to Cleave,
Your
Majesty!

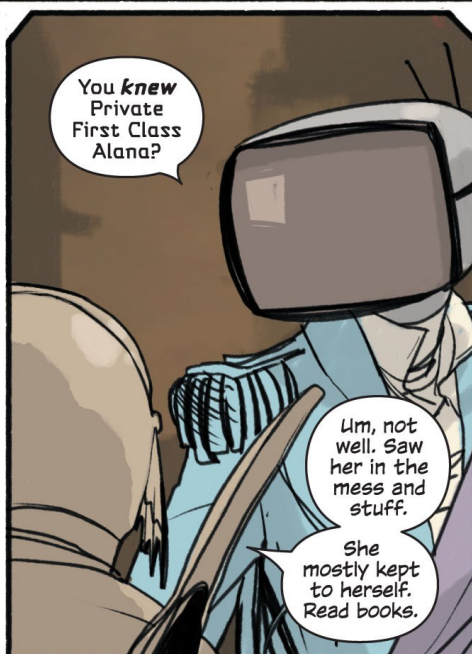
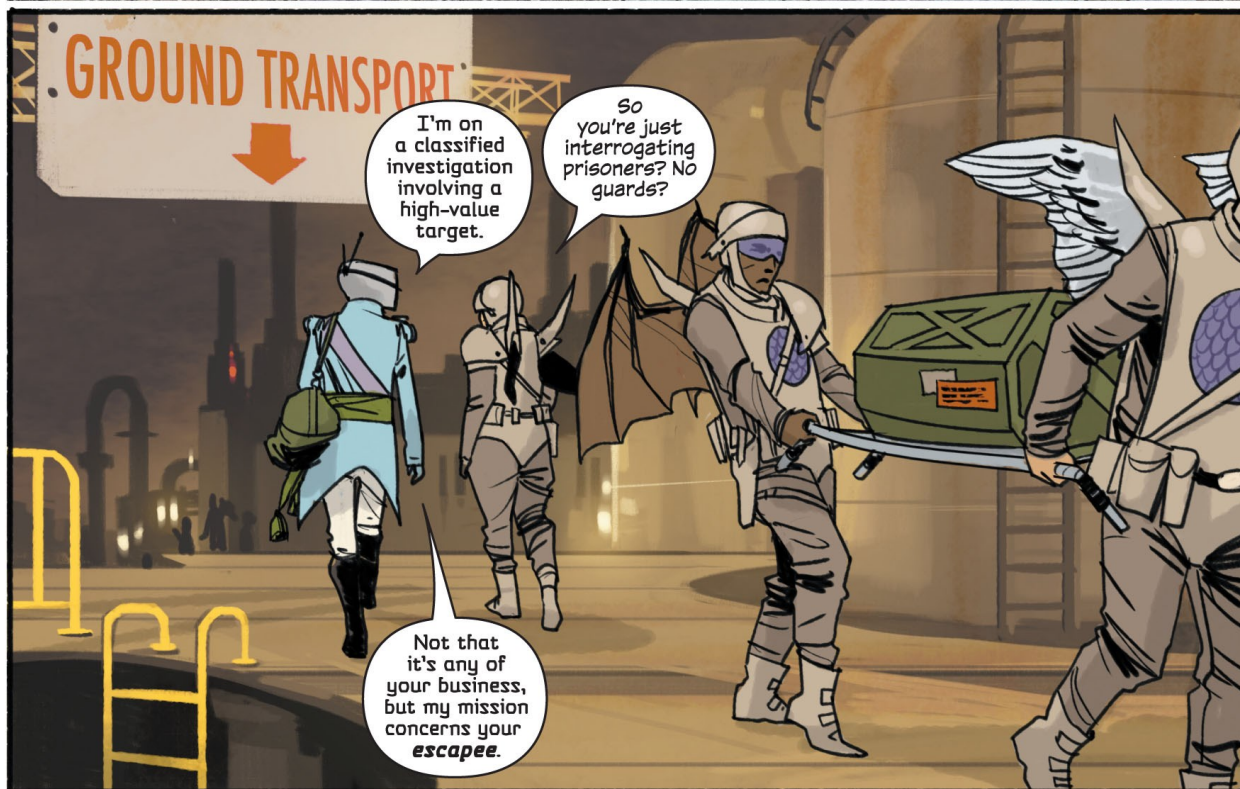


Lance Corporal
McHenry, 372nd
Company, at your
disposal.

How
was the
trip in from
Landfall,
sir?

The nice ones
bring food.

Dreadful.
I'd rather
fly commercial
than another
one of those
godforsaken
things.









Something's here.

Then we *run*.



Too late for that.

We have to count on our *rings* to make whatever's out there understand.



If you can hear my voice, we mean you no harm, and... and we apologize if we have trespassed on your land or done anything to offend you.

My wife and I may *look* like the armies that have invaded this world, but we are *not* like them. We have renounced violence in every form.

Most forms.

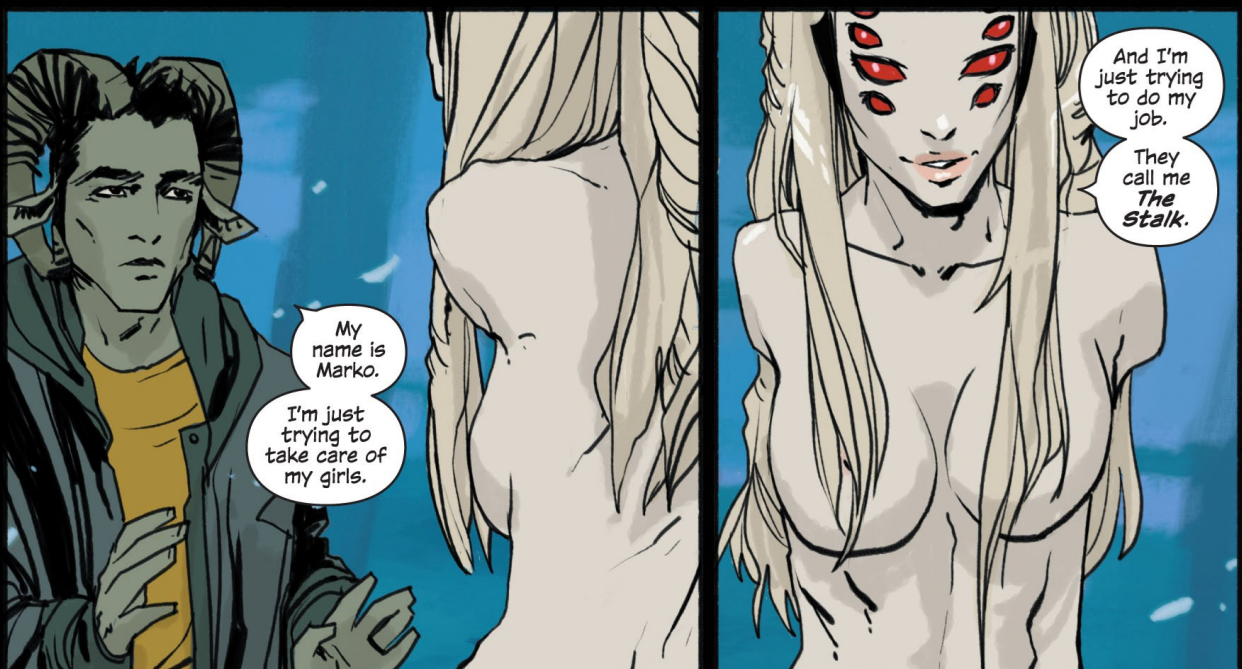


I lay down my weapon as a gesture of good faith.

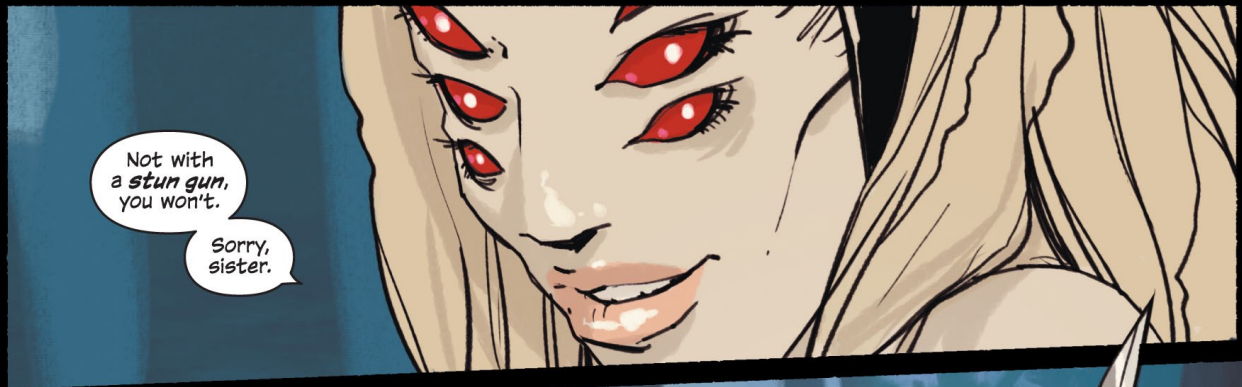
Please, may my family pass in peace?









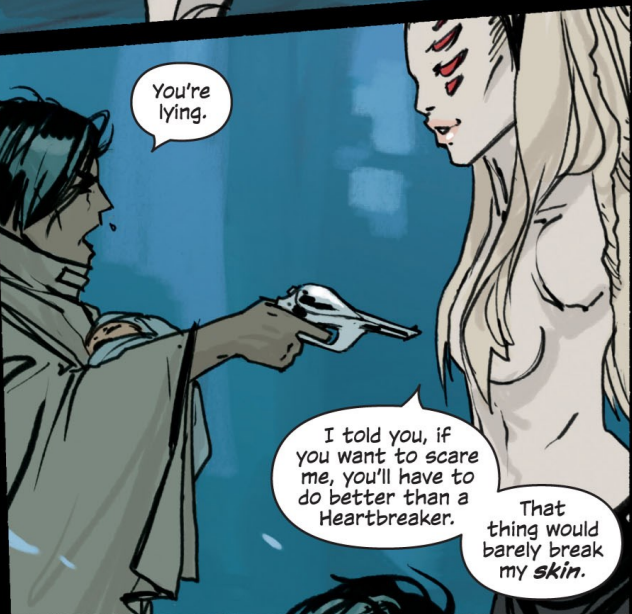


Not with
a *stun gun*,
you won't.

Sorry,
sister.



I know a
thing or two
about this
game.









Baby!



Baby,
baby,
baby.



Baby,
please.

We need
you. They're
coming and, and
we need you.
I need--

Hello?



AHHH!

Hello?

Hello?

Hello?

Hello?

Hello?

Hello,
we've been
watching
you.

Looks
like you
could use
a hand.



TO BE CONTINUED

4335 VAN NUYS BOULEVARD • SUITE 332 • SHERMAN OAKS • CA 91403

Hey, it's you! You came back. Cool.

I just returned from hanging with sketch machine Fiona Staples at Image Expo in Oakland, where I saw so many incredible new comics from so many amazing new creators, my left eyeball literally exploded out of my face.

Special thanks to American heroes Mike Malve and Ryan Liebowitz for somehow tracking down a classy eyepatch for me. Apologies to whichever convention cosplay pirate it was likely stolen from.

Anyway, I'm writing this lettercol on the eve of our first issue's release, so the *To Be Continued* mailbox remains empty and unloved. In the interest of killing time, I thought I might run a little "Customer Survey," something comic companies routinely do to learn more about their loyal readership.

So if you have a few extra minutes to kill, won't you please consider answering some or all of the questions below? Feel free to fill out your answers directly on the page, then tear it out and mail it to the above address.

Don't worry about ruining the "value" of your comic, dingus! True value comes from story and art (as well as from the coded scavenger hunt clues designer Steven Finch has been hiding throughout our book).

2012 SAGA READER SURVEY

- 1) If you don't mind me asking, how old are you?
- 2) And where are you from?
- 3) What are you reading these days?
- 4) Do you buy your funny books from your friendly neighborhood retailer, or from an online site like Comixology?
- 5) Important: who would win in a fight, the Hulk or Rorschach?
- 6) If a member of the *Saga* creative team were on the run from the authorities, might he or she be able to crash on your couch for a bit?
- 7) What is the worst recreational drug?
- 8) Why won't more people accept the fact that *Haywire* is Steven Soderbergh's very best film?
- 9) What is your second greatest regret in life? Giving up on those piano lessons?
- 10) Seriously, what is wrong with my eye?
- 11) What is the only truly excellent Mexican restaurant in New York City?

12) Ian Fleming once wrote that James Bond liked sex best when it had "*the sweet tang of rape*." Does this change the way you feel about the character and/or life on this planet?

13) If you had to permanently give up either chocolate or cheese (in each of their infinite varieties), which would you choose?

14) When was the last time you watched a stage play, and what was it?

15) What do you think Image publisher Eric Stephenson's darkest secret really is?

16) Which of the Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles is most assuredly an atheist?

17) Have we dated?

18) Would you rather be trapped on the island from *Lost* with your mom or dad, and why?

19) When was the last time you were naked in front of someone in a nonsexual context?

20) Are you Banksy, and if so, can we do anything to help?

21) Who had a greater impact on your upbringing, your favorite librarian or your favorite coach?

22) What are you working on these days, anything creative?

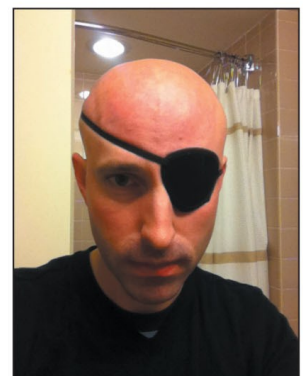
23) Wait, why did you abandon it?

24) Relax, I'm sure it's great. Listen, why not put down this comic and do a little work on your thing RIGHT NOW?

25) Cool, but before you do, if you were to be reincarnated as an inanimate object, what would it be?

On behalf of the whole *Saga* team, thank you in advance for your cooperation. Rest assured that all answers will be kept in the strictest confidence, unless they're particularly clever.

See you next month,
Special Agent Baldpatch



Question of the Month

"For me, it's the Baltimore convention. The best comics conventions always have a good combination of guests, location and low presence of other media. Baltimore has the whole package. I sat there with Richard Starkings in 2009-2010 and I could feel such a genuine feeling of love for comics from everyone there. Other very comics friendly cons similar to this that I've thoroughly enjoyed include Emerald City Con and Heroes Con!"

Andre Szymonowicz
MILL YEARS

"WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE COMIC BOOK CONVENTION?"

"Emerald City in Seattle. The con is special for one simple reason: the fans. As comic books are increasingly used to inject vitality into movies and video games, sometimes conventions can feel like comics are off to the wings, but Emerald City puts comic books center stage. The show is electrified with a love of comic books, and fans should make at least one pilgrimage to Emerald City."

Gerry Duggan
THE NEW YORK TIMES

"TCAF, the Toronto Comic Arts Festival in my hometown is a wonderful show that keeps growing every year without losing its intimate creator-centric focus. Independent comic creators, webcomics and comic art are on display and for sale in Canada's largest library during TCAF along with great panels and book premieres all weekend long. The fact that it's free to attend is just icing on the cake."

Jim Zub
SHOULDERKICKERS

"Emerald City Comic Con. Jim Donnanakis has created a popular show centered around creators in a great city with plenty of coffee shops, crepe restaurants and rain! It's an Englishman's paradise. (Well, it's MY paradise!)"

Richard Starkings
ELEPHANTHORN

"My favorite convention is Heroes Con because of the sheer number of artists that are there. It's also very laid back and family friendly. Almost like a comic summer camp weekend."

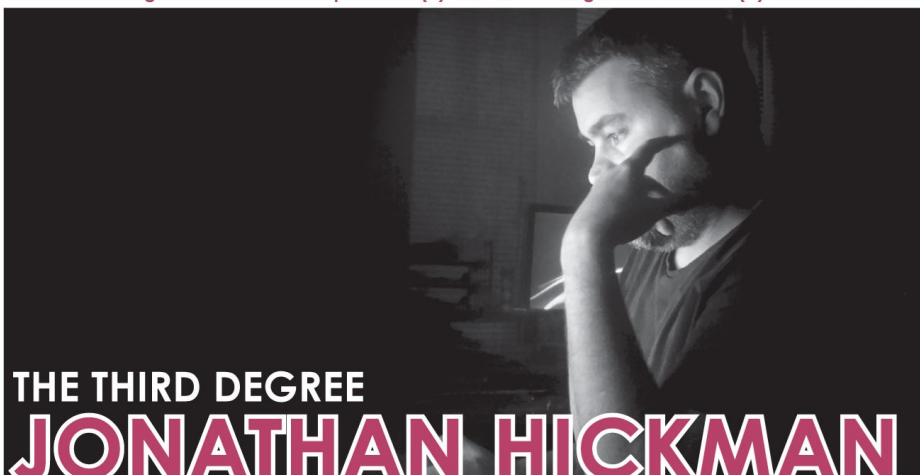
Phil Noto
THE INFINITE BORDERS

APRIL 2012

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THE THIRD DEGREE JONATHAN HICKMAN

Jonathan Hickman is the award-winning talent behind such works as *The Nightly News*, *Pax Romana*, *Transhuman* and *The Red Wing*. His upcoming books, *The Manhattan Projects* and *Secret*, along with his mainstream titles, *Fantastic Four* and *the Ultimates*, have cemented him as one of the unique voices in the industry.

What are you working on right now?
Today I'm writing *Secret*. The first issue of which happens to be out this month.

What's the best part of your job?
Making things up. Playing pretend... generally being paid to functionally act like a kid.

What's the worst part of your job?
Deadlines, right? It's got to be that -- running out of time, it's the worst.

How did you first discover comics?
Probably the same way the majority of fans my age did. Spinner racks in drug stores and 7-11s.

If you weren't working in comics, what would you be doing?
In the short term, Art directing probably. In the long term, probably killing myself from art directing.

What's the strangest thing a fan has ever said to you?
Oh, I have no idea. I don't take a lot of that seriously. Sure, I believe people are being sincere, but I'm so hard on myself I can't swallow most of it. I'm just glad when I smile, they smile and don't throw shit at me.

What's your favorite part of the comics-creating process?
Breaking the initial story. Figuring out where the story is going.

Who is the biggest influence on your work?
Writing? Frank Herbert. In comics, Grant Morrison or Warren Ellis probably. Art? No idea, that changes monthly, always has.

What is the single work of which you're most proud?
Proud person to ask. I kind of love and hate each thing both equally and differently.

Own up to one of your guilty pleasures.
Oh, I think I wear it like a badge. Soccer.

What was the last comic book you bought?
I think it was *Fatale* #2, actually. I haven't been to the store in a bit because I've been traveling.

If you could be someone else for a day, who would it be?
Lionel Messi. Forget the day, just for one game.

Pick three things you couldn't live without.
My wife and kids.

What's the strangest thing you have in your house?
My wife and kids.

What is one of your favorite places?
I love the mountains.

What music are you listening to these days?
Usually just alt-rock. I am looking forward to Jack White's new album. Remastered Smiths is pretty amazing.

What is your favorite film of all time?
Probably, Lynch's *Dune*.

Who is your best friend?
Oh that's my wife, again.

What is the worst advice you've ever received?
I'm pretty good at making my own decisions regarding both my personal life and career, so I don't really take a lot of advice in general. The worst thing was probably a business thing that happened 15 years ago -- never get into bed with someone you don't really know.

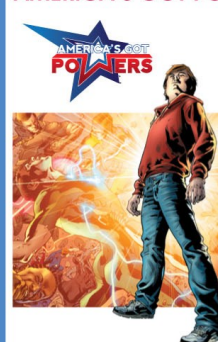
When was the last time you were truly frightened?
When one of my kids got sick. That's a pretty scary, helpless feeling.

Name someone you really admire and explain why.
I assume you mean in comics, so, Professional/Business related? Bendis. Hands down. I don't think there's anyone in the medium that handles the volume of responsibility and work that guy does. It's stunning. Staggering. Talent-wise? Skottie Young's a beast. A professional cartoonist in the purist sense.

What would you like to see happen in comics in the next 12 months?
I think it would be cool to see Image get to double their percentage of the market. That would be pretty stunning.

What the world needs now is...
More love, less hate.

AMERICA'S GOT POWERS #1 (of 6)



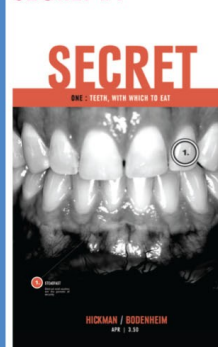
Welcome to **AMERICA'S GOT POWERS**! It's the biggest TV show on Earth, where the chance to win fame, fortune and get laid are dangled in front of a generation of super-powered teens. All they have to do is WIN. Who is the fastest, the strongest or the greatest? Who survives? Young Tommy Watt's dreams of being the greatest hero of them all might just be shattered when the greatest show on the planet begins to reveal its dark heart.

DANGER CLUB #1



What if the union of a generation's brightest minds was not a signal for optimism but a warning? The atomic bomb proved its capacity for immense devastation, but what if its creation was just a cover for a series of more unusual programs? A new series by Jonathan Hickman and Nick Pitarra takes a look at one of the most critical periods of the 20th century through a lens both darkened and strange.

SECRET #1



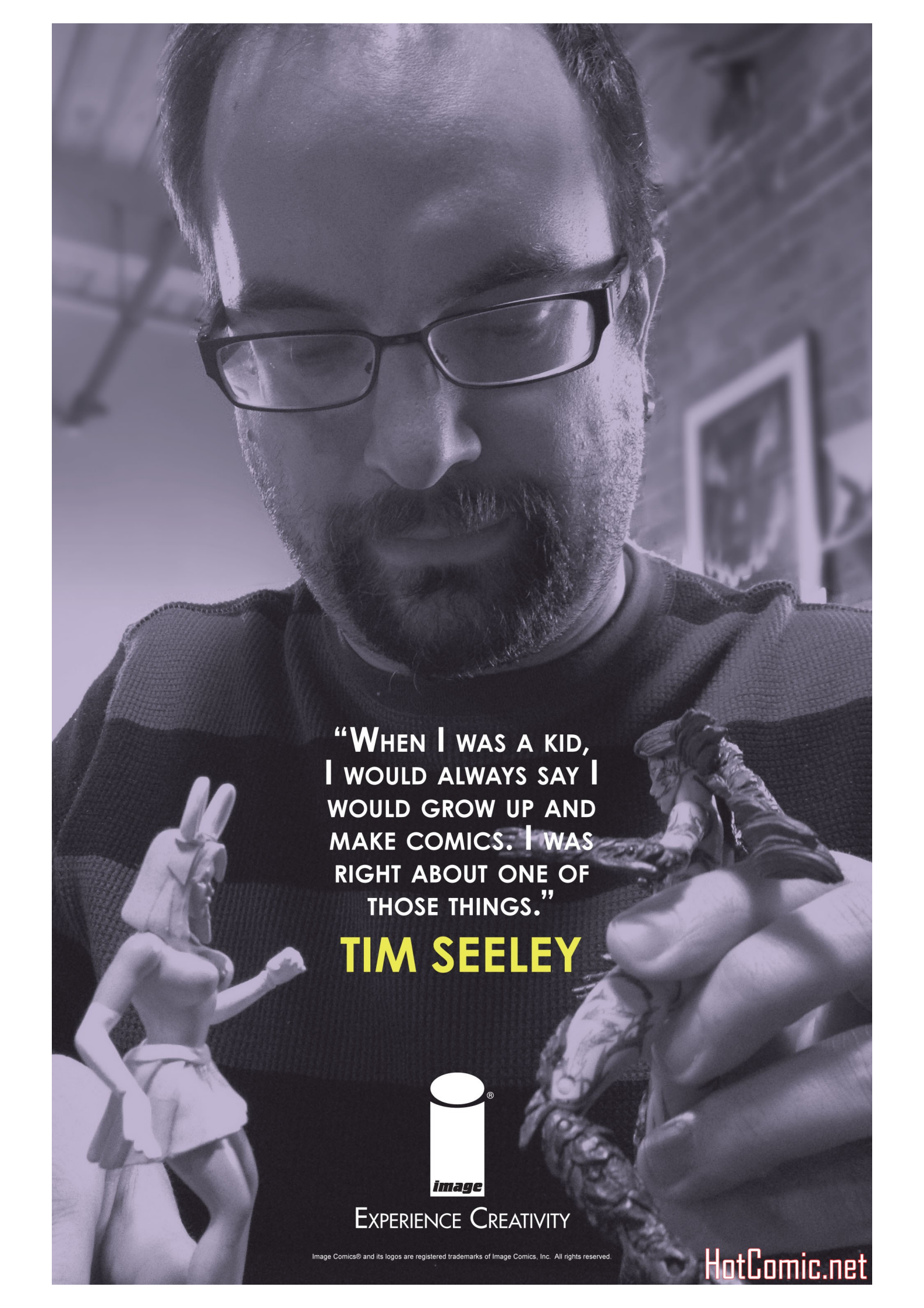
"TEETH, WITH WHICH TO EAT" A man gets shot in London, a law firm gets broken into in Washington, an accountant gives away the password to his computer, and something put to sleep 20 years ago awakens. What is the unsavory relationship all these things share, and how could it bring down two of the largest governments in the history of the world?

SUPREME #63



"REVELATIONS" The legendary Supreme returns! ALAN MOORE's final SUPREME tale is the ultimate jumping on point for new readers! The triumphant return of Image Comics' most powerful hero! As Supreme romances Diana Dane he takes her on a tour of the Citadel Supreme and tells all of his innermost secrets just as Supreme's most hated nemesis, Barius Dax, makes a most unfortunate discovery: the key to defeat his abhorred adversary!

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A black and white photograph of Tim Seeley, a man with glasses and a beard, looking down at two action figures he is holding. The figure on the left is a female character with long hair, and the figure on the right is a male character with a beard and a long, flowing cape. The background is slightly blurred, showing what appears to be a bookshelf or a display of other items.

**"WHEN I WAS A KID,
I WOULD ALWAYS SAY I
WOULD GROW UP AND
MAKE COMICS. I WAS
RIGHT ABOUT ONE OF
THOSE THINGS."**

TIM SEELEY



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